Types of Schools

* Vocational/Trade School/For-Profit – 8 months-2 years (certificate or Associate)
* Focus is on training for a specific career
* Careers: cosmetology, medical imaging, vet tech, welding, HVAC, graphic design
* Certificates can also be earned at some four-year colleges
* Community College – 2 years
* Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), Associate of Applied Science (AAS)
* Less expensive than a four-year school
* Careers: registered nurse, dental hygenist, police officer, paralegal, vet tech, teacher’s aide, graphic design or computer programming
* Associate degrees can also be earned at some four-year colleges
* College – 4 years
* Bachelor’s of Arts, Bachelor’s of Science, Bachelor’s of Music
* Broad curriculum
* Smaller classes, most, if not all, of which are taught by professors
* Careers: journalism, teaching, engineer, physician’s assistant, financial manager
* University – 4 years
* Bachelor’s of Arts, Bachelor’s of Science, Bachelor’s of Music, Bachelor’s of Fine Arts
* “Big” college with lots of smaller colleges or professional schools
* Larger classes
* Not all classes are taught by professors
* Focus is more on scholarly or scientific research
* Graduate School – 1-2 years
* Master of Art (MA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Engineering (MAs. or MEng), Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Master of Library Science (MLS), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), Master of Education (M.Ed.)
* Some professions require an additional test or a minimum number of hours completed to be eligible to practice in your field (CPA 150 semester units to sit for exam)
* Careers: architect, clergy, higher-salaried teacher, engineer, high school administrator, social worker, accountant, librarian
* Professional or Post-Graduate School – 3-5 years
* Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Education, (Ed.D.), Juris Doctor (JD) Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)
* To become a doctor: four years of med school and then 3-7 years or residency
* Careers: college professor, doctor, lawyer, veterinarian, pharmacist, college administrator

Other things to consider:

* Joint programs (3+2 for engineering, 4+3 for medicine)
* Thesis